

REMARKS

Claims 6, 7, 12-14, 17, and 18 have been amended, and claims 1-5 were previously cancelled. Thus, claims 6-18 are pending in the present application. The claim amendments are supported by the specification and accompanying figures of the present application, with no new matter being added. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 12, 13, 17, and 18 have been amended to correct typographical errors or for clarity, and not for reasons related to patentability.

1. Drawings

Applicants have submitted herewith a replacement sheet for Figure 9, making appropriate corrections to the reference numerals by changing 44 to 42 where indicated to provide consistency in the figure. A marked-up copy of Figure 9 is also enclosed showing the changes made.

2. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,303 to Jeng (hereafter "*Jeng '303*") for the reasons set forth on pages 2-4 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claim 6 now recites a plurality of lines of a "two-layer" conductive material extending along the upper surface of the single first dielectric layer, with "a first layer of the two-

Support for such a "two-layer" conductive material is found in the application as filed in Figures 8

and 9, where titanium nitride films 42 on aluminum lines 40 form a plurality of lines of a two-layer conductive material.

In contrast, *Jeng* '303 teaches a multi-layered metal line of a metal barrier layer 62, a metal layer 58, and a metal cap layer 60 (col. 3, lines 18-20; Figs. 1, 18). *Jeng* '303 does not teach or suggest a structure wherein the conductive lines are a "two-layer" conductive material, as recited in present claim 6. Thus, claim 6 and dependent claims 7-9 and 11-13 would not have been obvious over *Jeng* '303.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 6-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 14 and 16-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jeng* '303 singly or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,087,250 to Hyakutake (hereafter "*Hyakutake*") for the reasons set forth on pages 4-5 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claim 14 now recites a plurality of lines of a "two-layer" conductive material extending along the upper surface of the first dielectric layer, with "a first layer of the two-layer conductive material" being in contact with the upper surface of the first dielectric layer, and "a second layer of the two-layer conductive material" comprising titanium nitride.

Jeng '303 does not teach or suggest a structure wherein the conductive lines are a "two-layer" conductive material, as recited in present claim 14. In addition, *Hyakutake* does not overcome the

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 14 and 16-18 under 35

Claims 10 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jeng* '303 singly or in combination with *Hyakutake*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,486,493 to *Jeng* (hereinafter "*Jeng* '493") for the reasons set forth on pages 5-6 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 10 and 15 depend from claims 6 and 14, respectively, and thus include the limitations thereof. As discussed above, claims 6 and 14 would not have been obvious over *Jeng* '303 or *Hyakutake*. In addition, *Jeng* '493 does not overcome the deficiencies of *Jeng* '303 or *Hyakutake*. Thus, even if the cited references are combined as suggested by the Examiner, not all of the claim limitations are met. Thus, claims 10 and 15 would not have been obvious over the cited references.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 10 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 12 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jeng* '303 singly or in combination with *Hyakutake* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,420,075 to Homma et al. (hereafter "*Homma*") for the reasons set forth on page 6 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants note that claim 4 was previously cancelled, so the rejection of this claim is moot.

Claims 12 and 17 depend from claims 6 and 14, respectively, and thus include the limitations thereof. As discussed above, claims 6 and 14 would not have been obvious over *Jeng* '303 or *Hyakutake*. In addition, *Homma* does not overcome the deficiencies of *Jeng* '303 or *Hyakutake*.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 12 and 17 under 35

3. Double Patenting

Claims 6-18 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,107,686 in view of Jeng '303 for the reasons set forth on pages 7-8 of the Office Action.

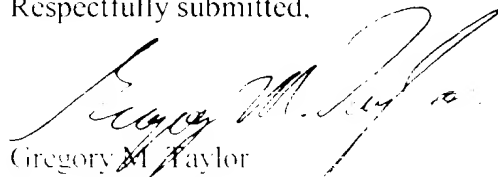
Applicants will file a terminal disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejection once allowable subject matter is indicated by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present claims. In the event the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of this application that could be clarified by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 2nd day of September 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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